

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PONTA 00132 152315Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 BIB-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /080 W
-----152333Z 099311 /75

R 151710Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL OPORTO
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 132

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: SEPARATIST LEADER'S VIEWS

1. FLA LEADER, JOSE ALMEIDA, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO EUROPE INCLUDING SPAIN, CAME TO THE CONSULATE APRIL 14 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN THAT U.S. POLICY WAS TOO SOFT TOWARD EURO-COMMUNISM. HE SEEMED REASSURED WHEN I GAVE HIM A COPY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT IN STATE 78012. DURING OUR CONVERSATION ALMEIDA VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

---ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S.: HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE MUST OCCUR WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, BUT FLA HAS OUTGROWN ITS COMPLEX OF BEGGING FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE U.S. PREFERS TO CONTROL PORTUGAL AND THE AZORES THROUGH ONE SINGLE POINT - LISBON.

---COMMUNIST ACTION IN AZORES: HE IS WORRIED ABOUT COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN THE AZORES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNIST INSPIRED SEPARATIST MOVEMENT. THERE ARE DIRECT CONTACTS FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PONTA 00132 152315Z

EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, NOT CHANNELED THROUGH THE PCP OR THE CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, TO COMMUNISTS AND EXTREME LEFTISTS IN THE AZORES. SOME WELL-TO-DO SEPARATISTS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE COMMUNIST OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. PERSONALLY, HE OPPOSES COMMUNIST EFFORTS OF ANY TYPE AND FORESEES CLASHES BETWEEN THE COMMUNISTS AND FLA SOON. COMMUNISM WILL NEVER BE SUPPORTED BY THE AZOREAN PEOPLE.

---ARAB INFLUENCE: ALMEIDA REPORTED ARAB CONTACTS WITH SEPARATISTS AND NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED WHEN I ASKED IF LIBYA WAS INVOLVED. HE CONSIDERS THE ARAB INTEREST AS A LOW PRIORITY WORRY.

---THRID WORLD CONTACTS: ALMEIDA HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY "FREE AFRICA", A GROUP OF AFRICANS WITH A THIRD WORLD NEUTRALIST ORIENTATION, WHO OPPOSE "NEO-COLONIALISM".

---REGIONAL GOVERNMENT: FLA IS NOT PARTISAN. ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST IT GAVE A "VOTE OF CONFIDENCE" TO THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, IT NO LONGER SUPPORTS IT BECAUSE IT HAS NOT FOUGHT SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE DEGREE OF AUTONOMY POSSIBLE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND PROVISIONAL STATUTES OF AUTONOMY. THE BEST ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE THROUGH A GRADUAL ENLARGING OF AUTONOMY. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF REAL VALUE, BUT FLA NO LONGER SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT PER SE.

---SOCIALISTS: FLA IS NOT AGAINST THE SOCIALISTS. IN ALMEIDA'S OPINION, IF THERE WEREN'T A SOCIALIST PARTY IN THE AZORES IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CREATED.

---FAR RIGHT: FLA LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ELIMINATING THE INFLUENCE OF THE FAR RIGHT, THOSE FROM THE DOMINANT CLASS UNDER THE OLD REGIME WHO AIDED THE COLONIAL POLICY. THESE PEOPLE HAVE NO SAY IN CONDUCTING THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, BUT MAY SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PONTA 00132 152315Z

---THE GOP: PORTUGAL'S ECONOMY IS AT A DEAD END AND THERE IS NOT HOPE FOR RECOVERY. THE GOP IS CONTROLLED BY THE U.S. IF THE GOP WERE SMART, IT WOULD HAVE REMOVED GEN. GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO AS MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC MONTHS AGO. ALMEIDA IS HAPPY FIGUEIREDO IS STILL AROUND BECAUSE HE IS AN EXCELLENT TARGET AROUND WHICH TO ORGANIZE AZOREAN OPPOSITION.

---DIVISIONS: THERE HAD BEEN AN EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A SEPARATIST MOVEMENT FOR JUST THE ISLANDS OF SANTA MARIA AND SAO MIGUEL, BUT ALMEIDA STRONGLY OPPOSED IT, AS HE WOULD ANY INDEPENDENCE EFFORT THAT DID NOT INCLUDE ALL THE ISLANDS.

2. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT IN SPITE OF ALMEIDA AND HIS FOLLOWERS' FLIRTATION WITH NEUTRALISM, THEY REMAIN ANTI-COMMUNIST AND GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN. ALTHOUGH SOME HAVE POINTED TO ALMEIDA'S SPEECH ON MALTA AS A SIGN OF NEUTRALISM, MY READING OF THE SPEECH (WHICH APPEARED IN A RECENT ISSUE OF "MILHAFRE") WAS THAT IT EMPHASIZED THE ADVANTAGES OF INDEPENDENCE; MALTA'S NON-ALIGNED POLICY WAS MENTIONED ONLY

IN PASSING. ALMEIDA'S VIEWS OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF NON-SEPARATIST POLITICIANS HERE. THESE POLITICIANS CONSIDER ALMEIDA AND FLA RIGHTISTS.

3. MEANWHILE FLA HAS DISTRIBUTED FLIERS CRITICIZING THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR INCREASED FOOD PRICES, AND ATTACKING THE TRANSFER OF AZOREANS IN THE MILITARY TO THE CONTINENT AND CONTINENTALS TO THE AZORES. FLA SENT MELO BENTO, ALMEIDA'S RIGHT HAND MAN, TO THE U.S. TO ATTEND A RECENT DINNER SPONSORED BY THE AZOREAN COMMISSION OF NEW ENGLAND WHICH SENATOR BROOKE AND CONGRESSWOMAN HECKLER ALSO ATTENDED. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, MELO BENTO RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION AFTER HIS REMARKS. PFEIPFEIFLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PONTA00132
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0252
Format: TEL
From: PONTA DELGADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770452/aaaabtfw.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69e498a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2793631
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEPARATIST LEADER'S VIEWS
TAGS: PINT, PO, US, (ALMEIDA, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/69e498a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009